

Finance Working Group: Mental Health Issues and Dental Care

As the time allotted for the Health Care Task Force draws to a close, the Finance Group has tried to gather information about a variety of topics for the Task Force. Unfortunately, the Finance Group has not been able to conduct an independent investigation and evaluation of all the issues it believes are important, or all the issues the Task Force wishes to consider.

Of particular concern to the Finance Group is the issue of mental health. The Finance Group has had several discussions on this topic, but has not prepared a separate report on it. The concerns are of sufficient complexity and breadth, including financial issues but also issues relating to access and the structure of care delivery systems, that the Finance Group believes it merits a separate analytic effort. The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum produced an Issue Brief on Mental Health Issues, which the Finance Group commends to the Task Force as a good source of information and analysis.

Dental care is an additional topic about which there is widespread concern. Again, the Finance Group has not conducted an independent analysis of this issue, but does commend to the Task Force the report of the Special Legislative Commission on Oral Health produced in February of 2000.

These materials will be available at the Health Care Task Force meeting on Monday, November 19, and will be posted on the Task Force web site:
www.state.ma.us/healthcare.